

## True Masculine Role: Introduction, Part 2

### By Robert Vernon

Vernon:

Making decisions - If you don't set objectives for your family objectives to achieve. Who's gonna do it? You don't set objectives for your children. Who's gonna do it. We're gonna go into that in detail in the weeks to come. And what that really involves setting objectives for your self your family and your children. Staff development Problems 20:6.

We call it management circles staff development the Bible says a little bit differently: Teach a child to choose the right path and when he is older he will remain upon it. Teach him to make the right kind of decision. I found it very important as a manager to spend at least two hours a week in a block of time not separate in the 15 minute increments but two hours at a time with each of my immediate subordinates I have three captains that report to me and to commanders and I set aside one day a week for each one of them and I spend two hours with them and we begin by I give them a principal for the week just to give an example the principal for this week is "a good boss takes less than his share of the praise and more than his share of the blame".

And then I elucidate on that principle with him. I said I want you to know what that means. And we sat on it for 15 minutes. We talked about that principle. I said I want you to employ that principle in your shop and I want you to pass it on to your subordinates. And so I'm developing

those men to think like I think to to utilize principals in making decisions and not just be impulsive decision makers but have a principal before they before they act. Developing your staff developing your children or your staff in your home. They're your immediate subordinates your wife and your children.

If you're not going to develop your children who's going to develop them? The school teachers? They do the best job they can but really it's your ultimate responsibility. Quite often the school has to step in and take over responsibilities that we parents have neglected. For instance sex education. I really don't think that that belongs in the school I believe in sex education. And since it's being neglected I think we have to do it the school. But you know I really think it belongs. I think it belongs in the home.

I think that dad should be involved in sex education. We're going to talk about that one night before we're over a good hour or so on just sex education. And the reason I don't think it really ideally belongs in the school is because of our concept of separation of church and state and United States. And I think that's a good principle. We we have to stay away from moral issues because moral issues have to be based on biblical principles really. And they can't do that in school. And so all they teach in a school is is the physical end of sex and they give them all this knowledge of how to use the equipment with no guidelines of when and how.

You know it's it's this is the way they use it. But whether you should use it or not. Well we can't get into that. You'll have to make up your own mind kid because that's in morals and morals and related the principles and where we're going to have moral principles but probably in religion and we can't talk about that. So you'll have to decide for yourself really based on a lot of different things on whether you should or whether you shouldn't. And with who. But here's how you use it.

And that's kind of dangerous. Ideally the physical end of sex and the moral spiritual end of sex should be intermingled and working together to build a beautiful relationship. And that can really only be done in the home or in the church. And lastly but of necessity in the schools. That involves direction in developing your staff. Discipline. We're going to spend one whole night on discipline. I think it's such an important area. Then Team development. There's a lot of classes now being given throughout the United States seminars with management consultants and out at UCLA in what they call team building.

It's a whole science now. It's a whole discipline. You can take classes register for them it's called Team Building for managers. It's an important concept. It involves in this case when that's we're talking about families securing family commitment. We're going to talk about such things as McGregor's X and Y theory and how do they apply to family situation and Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs. Some of this may mean something to some of you but you may say what's he talking about you'll find out when we get the team building.

But what we're talking about is in such things as getting people committed. One of the prime considerations of having participative management where you don't have to be an autocrat and lead people around by whips and in rings in their noses is to get them committed toward the same principle that you're committed and you don't have to whip them around in the shape they agree with you.

Team building - being all on the same team moving together just like a football team moves together. If a football team isn't working together you you don't really have an effective team here a season or two ago I guess it's been two years now they had some problems in SC between the team members some so you remember this. Some of the linemen got mad at some of the backfield men inside they wouldn't open the holes for them and man it looked bad for the backfield man they really looked bad. And of course the team wasn't effective.

You've got to work together you've gotta be committed toward the same thing you've got to be clicking and clacking together as a family has to be that way you can't be going on divergent paths with different value structures and different goals in mind. It's a team development also includes communication systems. And next week we're going to spend a whole evening talking about communication. What a fascinating subject communications. I think is a really open your minds and communications next week. Dealing with the concept of guilt and forgiveness. One of

the major factors that breaks families apart is hurting one another and then letting that hurt fester and get sore and pretty soon there is a root of bitterness that's involved and it goes from bad to worse and rather than solving the problem and it becomes worse. Forgiveness is necessary. We'll talk about the concept of forgiveness and finally Coping with the environment you know in my job as a manager I have to I have to really get involved in taking care of my subordinates as far as giving them the tools to work with that they need.

If we have a bunch of policemen out there we don't give them cars and say Now you guys go out and crush crime and we want you to respond to calls. Well we're our police cars. Well we don't have any this year but you know go out and do your thing. It's up to me to see that the policemen get what they need to do the job: coping with the environment. Dealing with city council. OK. In the case of you as a as a parent as a father providing a budget you know getting your money to your wife so she can work with it.

Getting her the resources she needs providing the food for your children. Controlling influencing factors. One of these nights we talk about this we'll be talking about such things as some mild forms of censorship. Some of you don't like that word at all but it's really necessary in today's environment. Build into your children up a sense of self censorship so that they censor things for themselves. Preparing for all kinds of contingencies. And I forgot to give you some vs. for these things. I've since I prepared this outline here I found a few more on team development take a look at proverbs 24 verses 3, 4, and 6.

We talk about communication systems in coping with the environment. Take a look at proverbs 27:12. Let me read you that proverbs 27. That's a good one. Just before we break it it's time right now to break but I want to read this one verse before we do. Proverbs 27:12 in the living version says "a sensible man watches for problems ahead and prepares to meet them" once again a wise man or one who is fulfilling God's role is a type of guy that that considers problems that may come in the future and he prepares to meet them.

The simpleton never looks and suffers the consequences. If you're really fulfilling God's role for your life as the leader of your family you'll consider the future for your family you'll prepare for things you prepare for contingencies that may occur. Get ready for them. Right after the break we're going to go into some biblical masculine traits that the Bible talks about. Let's break it this time and let's be back in about 10 minutes. OK.

[Break]

OK. Getting back into biblical masculine traits. Take a look at the James 3:17 James 3:17 talks about wisdom from above. In other words God's rules for us his his insight the type of wisdom that God wants us to have the wisdom from above. The type of people we're to be his first pure.

I'm reminded of a of a verse in the Bible in Proverbs once again that talks about your affections and it's it's really interesting to see once again the practicality of the wisdom in the Bible.

Proverbs 4:23 and it's paraphrased this way and the living Bible it says above all else guard your affections for they influence everything else in your life.

Then it goes on and talks about spurning the careless Kiss of the prostitute staying far from her. And you know I find that's really true. A guy who is a chippy as I say and I'm not talking about the highway patrol. Some people call it highway patrol chippies but you know what I'm talking about a guy that is is losing his morals and cheats on his wife. That affects everything else in his life. It really does. I can spot a guy in my organization a policeman who is messing around with his affections and all he can think of is the next gal he can make and I can spot that type of guy. It affects the way he works and the attitudes he has toward his job.

It says that a real masculine man a man who follows the wisdom from above who is fitting into God's role for him is pure. He follows the principles laid down in the Word of God. He does not commit adultery. He is an honest man. He does not steal. He's pure. Secondly he is peaceable. The wisdom from above is first pure then peaceable and then going a little bit into what that peaceable means. I think there is a neat phrase in Proverbs 3:30 that says he doesn't get into needless fights. I think that's an interesting thing. He doesn't get into NEEDLESS fights. It doesn't say he doesn't get into fights.

You know Jesus got into altercations. You remember the famous one; he walked into the temple and the money changers there and Jesus got into a fight. He ripped down the cord from the temple and it says he drove them out. And I always get kind of bent out of shape when it when it has a picture of Jesus. And you can tell some of the postings had to be had to be women because they have kind of feminine characteristics. They look very dainty In fact some of the some of the painters have cropped out that they've used women as a model and they present Jesus in a very feminine way.

And we normally think of the word meek is as being a person who doesn't ever get in any type of altercation or fight. You know meek doesn't mean that. Bill Gotham did some research on the word meek and what it meant when it was translated into the King James version at the time was translated and what the Greek really means and you know what it really means it means strength under control. That's what Meek is. I like that definition meek being having your strength under control but it doesn't mean you're weak. Some of us have an impression that in order to be a godly man in order to be a person following Jesus Christ we have to be weak.

We have to be almost feminine. The Bible clearly teaches that we're to be manly. It tells us that when it says we're to rule we're too weak to be in authority where to love our wives. Yes but where to be in charge and we're not getting needless fights but doesn't say we're not to get in

fighters. I really believe that Jesus was as I like to say a big moose you know in the vernacular of the day. I think he had to be. His job was was that of being a carpenter.

And you know the carpenters of that day couldn't go down to Jerusalem lumber company and order you know twenty five two by fours. You know what they had to do they had to go out into the woods and chop down a few trees and hue them out by hand. They didn't have band saws and things like that and you can always tell a carpenter you know cause he was a big moose. He was a guy that has one of the big axe and pulled a mean saw. He didn't have to work out with weights. Naturally he did it every day. And can you envision Jesus coming into the temple with a tanker top on like this big fella in the front row. Is that all right you guys whipping out a thing that's why they all move. You know Jesus was a big moose. He was a masculine guy. He had a strength out of control. He didn't lose his head. He didn't get into needless fights. You know another time I can remember when Jesus at the Garden of Gethsemene and they came in and they had guys with swords and staves and lanterns they all came crowding up around him.

Somebody said Who are you after? And he said we're after Jesus and he said he turn and face him and looked at them and he said "I am he" you know what has happened when he uttered those words. They all fell down. Can you see a little Twinkie doing that? [audience laughter] I can see Jesus standing there. I am he and whoa. Let me out of here. You know they didn't want to tangle with him. The carpenter's son doesn't get into needless fights. I think we have a

mistaken viewpoint of what is masculine and what is godly. And we somehow think that the two don't gel and what I'm saying is that the Bible teaches the to do gel.

To really be performing God's role is to be a masculine individual that doesn't necessarily mean size. I placed a lot of emphasis for for purposes of describing Christ on size. I'm not talking about size obviously we don't control that. That's kind of the genes and the chromosomes but we're talking about being a type of fellow who who doesn't mind taking charge and doing what's right and standing up for what's right and not being a fellow that just kind of fades into the woodwork when the going gets rough. Jesus wasn't that type of guy.

He keeps cool wet and solid proverbs 12:16. This is a hard one. He's not the kind of a guy who goes around picking fights. Proverbs 12:16: a fool is quick tempered a wise man - in other words a guy who's following God's rule for his life - a wise man stays cool when insulted. Now you kind of say Well doesn't that doesn't that disagree with what you said earlier? You said doesn't get into needless fights. That's right. But he does get into them when it's necessary to stand up for what's right. But he keeps cool and insulted. Just you know, you're not anxious to get into b4 or to get into a confrontation with someone someone insults you. You let him insult you. It doesn't hurt you doesn't mean you back down when you're standing up for a principle it's not talking about that but it means keeping cool and think in your own mind isn't the type of guy that you really admire as a guy that really keeps cool, keeps his head. Even though he has a lot of strength it's under control.

I remember one of the most effective cops I ever worked with as a guy about 6ft 5" and I walked the beat with him on Main Street. We had Main from 1st to 6th street and this was back in 1955 and it was tough tougher than it is now in 1955 --- had all the joints and third main ways to get in a fight almost every day at third me. For some reason there were a lot of rough guys hung around third main and every time we came down a street that one of the challenges you know we had to prove that we could lick them and it was a tough road to go you know but but Oh Gary was his name. He was the coolest guy! In fact he was so cool. Sometime they must suck him for being a little bit afraid or something you know in spite of his size and they would keep pressing him and keep pressing him. And maybe even take a swing at him and then look out you know he would be so cool but when it was necessary to defend himself and take action don't get in his way. You know even I got his way one time and he hit me not purposely but you know I got a little too close and he was winding up the hit somebody and I got it. He was the coolest guy until the chips were really down and he had to he had his strength under control and then he never went overboard.

You know I've seen some police they lose their head. You know policemen Jack Webb put it very wisely when one of his series on Dragon and I'll never forget he was playing a role of an internal affairs investigator. Those are the cops of the cops you know. When you complain against a policeman our internal affairs crew they they investigate it. And he was playing the role of internal affairs investigator and they found a policeman who was involved in some burglaries

and he was talking with his partner he said I can't understand it - his partner was saying to Jack you know Joe Friday - you know you saying Joe I can't understand it. This man is a Los Angeles police officer and he was stealing I can't understand it. And Joe very wise he looked at me said "Our problem is we have to recruit from the human race" [audience laughter] and you know there's so much truth there and really there's so much truth here.

Policemen are people. And I've seen policemen who once they get used for some time they go overboard they get kind of you know the emotions and the adrenaline gets pumping and they they do more thumping than they should. You know when the guy stops thumping them they keep on thumping him. And we have to discipline officers when they do that. That's not good. You know Gary he wasn't that type. He did just what was necessary. Usually it only took one. [audience laughter]. But he did what was necessary stop. He had his strength under control. I think of him when I think of of this type of concept here that you've got strength but you keep it under control. Maybe you don't have a lot of physical strength but you have a lot of strength. You know what I mean. Your personality - you're strong man. Some of the strongest men that I've been acquainted with have been small men - not necessarily physically strong but strong men. They had strong conviction. They weren't easily influenced as Webster says - they were resolute. They knew what they believed in. They stood up for what they believed in.

Have you ever seen pictures of some of the great men of history? Even in America. Patrick Henry some of these men who who were just fearless. Take a look at them, their pictures a thing

weren't really big men. Most of the real super great guys were of small stature. Some of them thin but they were strong men and they had their strength under control. And then we get down to gentle or another words the Bible using the King James - Meek - or strength under control as we've said before. A servant's heart, we've read you from read to you from Mark 10:42 in having a cool spirit and I gave you the wrong reference there and I want to give you the right reference I've corrected that in my notes. It's Proverbs 12:16 I believe the one I referred to earlier there that he keeps cool as a cool spirit.

Next he's reasonable. You'll notice the word they're right in the 17th verse of James 3 and I've expand a little bit on what is reasonable mean. Proverbs 12:15 it says that he listens to others. A fool thinks he needs no advice but a wise man listens to others. A person who following God's commands is living the role that God wants him to live listens to others. You know I've talked to so many kids that have told me that if if only my dad would listen to me. If only you would listen to me. You know I think one of the lost arts of communication and we're going to get into this next week is the art of listening. Just being able to listen and to not be thinking of what you're gonna say while they're talking to you. You know you're already thinking of your comeback. "Well I'm gonna you know I'll really shoot him down", and you're thinking of what cool thing you're gonna say. You just chop him apart and you don't even get the gist of what they're saying because you're thinking of your comeback. You ever talk to a person like that? You have been in a social group and you're being introduced to someone and you start talking with him and you could see you could see it in your eyes as you're talking to them you could tell he's not hearing a word I'm saying. He's thinking of what can he say cool back to me you know. Or how can he

look cool in this social group. He's thinking of himself and he's not listening to you at all. Doesn't that get you angry.

You know that young people have the ability more so than us older folks in looking behind the eyeballs. I really believe that. Did you know that our best witnesses in in police incidents are young people between the ages of 15 and 23 That's our best witness. Age 15 to 23. They see more, they remember more. They're more observant. It's something that goes along with that age range. I can't I can't explain it. I don't know why but I know our best witness is a person age 15 to 23. I really believe that young people are perceptive and young people can perceive what's in the mind of the parent when they're talking to them and they can tell whether you've turned them off or whether you're really listening. The Bible says a wise man listens to others. We're going to talk about the art of listening next week. A wise man gets the facts before making a decision. That's what it means when it says you're reasonable.

Proverbs 18:13: What a shame - Yes. How stupid to decide before knowing the facts. That's what it says proverbs 18:13 in the living version. The modern day language. What a shame. Yes how stupid to decide before knowing the facts and that's the one thing that can alienate young people and wives too by the way more so than anything else is is that they know that you don't want any facts you've got your mind made up don't confuse me with facts my mind's made up no you're not going to have the car whatever you know - without even listening to what they're saying and the Bible says that a wise man gets the facts before he makes a decision.

The Bible says that a reasonable godly man is fair. Proverbs 16:12 It is a horrible thing for a king or a ruler member that's what it says we are in the home where the one in charge. It is a horrible thing for - You can substitute the word a husband to do evil his right to rule depends on his fairness his reasonableness his fairness. As I've console with parents near children. I hear this word fair coming up practically every time we have a problem between the parent and child. You know they're in there talking and I'm talking to both them I'm trying to be the kind of the arbitrator you know I'm talking trying to keep apart till and I remember just scores of time hearing young person say "Yeah but Dad that's not fair!" You know they have a very keen sense of what's fair and the Bible indicates we should be fair. We should be reasonable, merciful.

Well when you get into talking about being in charge and being a disciplinarian we're gonna spend a whole evening on discipline. It also says that a wise man once is following God's direction is merciful. He responds to the needs of others proverbs 21:13 it's beautiful how the Bible this ties everything in. He who shuts his ears to the cries of the poor will be ignored in his own time of need. A wise man is merciful. He looks to the needs of others especially his own family. Their psychological needs, their acceptance needs.

You know one of the reasons that young people today many of them are doing such weird and bizarre things? As I talk to my ask you what I ask and we would be doing that for and quite often

the reason is "because my buddies you know I I was out with them and they did it and I was with them" and my usual responses well wait a minute don't you make up your own mind why do you do it your buddies do and they of course kind of fumble around but you know I really understand what they're saying their peer group pressure is a very strong motivating force upon them.

I've seen it motivate kids to commit murder. One of the first cutting cases I ever rode on was in a housing project I pulled up and a kid had been stabbed 27 times in the chest. A young kid and by three o'clock that morning we had five boys running up to did this murder and they were all under age 17 they were 15 16 years old brutal murder and as we talked to each one of them I went to the various interrogation rooms and had them all separated. You know like we always do and talk to each one of them and got to start each one and then I went back and I said Okay you know why and I ask each one that question individually and they all came up with the same story.

One of the kids Freddy I forget I think that was his name - was mad at this kid for taking out his girl and so they saw him and they were in a group and they said hey here comes a guy that took your girl. Yeah. He went over and hit him any knocking down and he stabbed it and then he turned and he handed it to one of the other members of the gang. They were involved in a gang, [inaudible] gang, and he handed in this knife and he said Come on you stab him too you're one of us. And the boy that was telling me says that when he handed me the knife he said I had nothing against the guy. I didn't do anything gets me but I looked around and all the rest of the guys were

looking at me and I said so big deal I looked at you. He said Yeah but I knew what they were saying with their eyes. If I don't do it I'm not part of the group. And so I stabbed them about three times. I don't want to but I knew they wanted me to.

And then I passed it to one of the other guys and we all looked at him and he stabbed him a few times and it sounds ridiculous really but the whole motivating force there for these repeated stabbings into this young man's chest bled dying on the on the ground there was peer group pressure the the sense of wanting to belong so desperately that you even commit murder in order to belong. And you know some of us can understand that. We say How can people do something like that. How can it happen.

I'll tell you why. All of us psychologists tell us have the need for acceptance right. We all have to feel accepted. Loved. And more and more we're finding young people who don't feel that type of acceptance from their parents and they do feel that acceptance from their peer group. They feel understand one another. And if they lose that acceptance guess what they've lost all acceptance and they can't afford to do that. You see the peer group acceptance is more important today I believe than it was 20 years ago because there's less a feeling of acceptance between parent and child today. In more cases in more cases every year there's less of a feeling of acceptance between parent child.

I can remember when I was in junior high I went to Nightingale junior high and I was a minority in that school. Anglos were in the minority. And marijuana was part of the culture and I was offered marijuana in junior high school and I didn't use it. And I've often asked myself why because I've heard so many kids tell me. Well you know everybody school's doing it so naturally. And I went back and I ask myself yeah but I was white you know I know I'm not different than anybody else really. You know average guy and I went back in my mind and thought back why didn't I. And I remember the thing that that told me no was your dad would die if he found out that you smoked marijuana. And my dad was more important to me than my peers. He really was. If it was up for grabs on whether I lose my father's acceptance because I felt I did have acceptance there - My dad was a real pal to me - We went hunting fishing together we we were inseparable. We were pals. And if I had to make a choice over that losing that acceptance or losing the acceptance of my buddies that was more important to me. And so if it meant losing the acceptance of my peers? OK you know I want your acceptance but if it means that I have to choose between you and my dad. I didn't say that but I'm thinking that it's going to be you guys because my dad's more importantly and the reason I think that we have more falling prey to peer group pressure today once again is because we have less of that type of relationships.

We have a complete different lifestyle today where everyone is going their own way. And we're so interested as a people in America I'm generalizing now. I'm not indicting everyone in this room but we're such as a people geared toward making money and doing our thing. We don't spend the time together as parents and children that we should. And therefore there is that less feeling of acceptance and love. And I find many young people today as I as I interview them

although they don't really come right out and say it in these words I have to kind of pull it out. I find that they they doubt some time the acceptance on a part of their dad. They wonder or although they feel loved sometimes they they really wonder because of his time commitment with them. They'll say well he tells me he loves me and I you and I know he does. But you can tell by the way they're saying they doubt because of the time commitment. But we don't spend much time together. We don't know one another that well we don't share that much of our guts together because well frankly we don't have the time.

You know there's a lot of reasons for that. We could go through many of them for instance there's the problem of of television. Not so much what it says but just the fact that it's there. The fact that when it's on there's not much communication. You know if you could walk into the average American home right this moment you would see up a group of people sitting around a box and are looking at it [audience low laughter] and there's no communication. Now they may be looking at something really good they may be watching the Waltons tonight it's Thursday night and it probably good show. Too bad you guys are missing it but it's not so much the evil that's coming out of the message of the tube it's just the fact that it's there and because it's there there's no communication. And people are sitting in the same room that the 30 years ago would be talking to one another because there's no television there. And these people today are not talking. We're going to talk about talking in one of our evenings but responding to other people's needs getting to know them.

It says in Matthew 5:7 that people are happy they're blessed if they're interested in the needs of others. And finally it says just like Webster's and it's interesting that the Bible agrees with Webster man that's living God's way as is resolute. He has good judgment. Proverbs 4:5. Let's turn to that "learn to be wise," he said "and develop good judgment and common sense". I can't over emphasize this point. Develop good judgment. Be resolute. Make decisions. I've heard many wives come to me and. And when we're talking about problems in the home and many times involving teenagers they they say "if only my husband would make a decision. I can't get him to make a decision. He won't take a position on this. He just as well it depends. Kind of cut up for him to decide". There's no guidance or no direction just kind of milk-toastish about the whole thing.

The Bible says that your resolute you have good judgment and you're not afraid to exercise what the Bible calls bold reproof. Proverbs 10:10. Let's turn to that one. I like this one. It says in the living version of proverbs 10:10 "winking at sin leads to sorrow; bold reproof leads the peace". It's not going to lead to arguments it's not going to lead to dissatisfaction if it's consistently done and if it's fairly done with all of these other attributes we've been talking about bold reproof leads to peace. That's beautiful. And finally it says that a wise man someone who is falling following God's directions is sincere. There's no hypocrisy.

Remember what we heard from the pulpit a couple of weeks ago about hypocrisy [from] Steward Briscoe. talking about hypocrisy coming from the root word in Greek which which meant those

masks that they wore during the Greek plays You know Mary you've seen the mask the smiling mask and the sad mask and that I forget the exact root heart goes hypocrisy or something like that but it meant those masks that a person puts on. The Bible said a man who is living according to God's direction fulfilling God's role his masculine role is sincere, he's not wearing a mask he's open he's what I call a transparent person you can look into his eyes you don't see a mask he's got the guts to reveal his own feelings

You know we have a lot of people today a lot of men today that are afraid to reveal their true self even to their families. They're afraid to reveal their weaknesses and when we get into discipline we have a whole week on that. I'm going to talk about the importance of admitting to your children and to your wives when you're wrong. That's very important. Some of you are bothered by me saying that tonight please give me a chance to explain it when we get to it but I think it's very important to admit when you're wrong. That doesn't detract from your leadership capability it does detract from your manliness. In fact that proves you are a man you've got the guts to say hey I goofed. You're so you're so secure in your position you're so secure with yourself you so you're so at home with your own self that you're able to admit weaknesses. You're able to ask for help from even those who are according to the word of God under you under your authority.

That's a real man.

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See you next week. Be ready to talk about communications.